

western cape scouter



December 2021



contents

Contents.....	2	1st Kirstenhof Pack Opens.	20
Christmas Greetings.....	2	Sailing Badge Course	23
RC's Reflections.....	3	Scouting in Schools News	24
Editor's Desk.....	3	SiS Hike Reactions.....	26
Appeal for Donations.....	4	The Garden of Hawequas.....	28
Adirondack Shelter.....	5	Western Cape Rovers.....	30
Springbok Dinner.....	6	Appleton Rejuvenation	32
Patrol Leader Training Course.....	8	1st Durbanville Anti-Plastic	33
1st Rocklands Purple Month	10	Hawequas News	34
Capucine's First Class Camp.....	11	Hout Bay Sailing Weekend	35
UTCT Mountain Aid Station.....	12	Century of World Jamborees	36
Climbing Badge Course.....	14	Survival (Backwoods) Course	38
Outeniqua District LDC	16	From the Archives.....	40
Paint the Lion Purple	18	Regional Contact List.....	40

christmas greetings

We wish all our readers who celebrate Christmas, a very Happy Christmas 2021.



regional commissioner's reflections



What a great read this final 2021 Western Cape Scouter edition presents us. The Scout brand is so totally visible and the out in Scouting reflected fully in the wide variety of activities and events included. Despite Covid challenges so many of our Groups and members provided safe and healthy outdoor activities for youth. Well done all.

Covid definitely slowed us down and sadly Community scouting numbers dropped from previous years. However the huge take up of

Meerkats - we are at 10 dens operating and 84+ invested Meerkats and growing fast, despite Covid limitations. A huge number of enthusiastic parents have joined in the fun with their young Meerkats and a new energy is surging through Groups embracing Meerkats.

As we pause and reflect on the year that was, we remember loved ones lost, support those who have suffered financially and health wise and stand together as members of a great youth organisation doing wonderful things. We celebrate each groups activities, and the growth of Scouting in Schools now numbering more members than our Community scout units. There is much to look forward to in 2022 as we focus on Growth, Adventure and Fun Scouting.

Enjoy the read, relax and refresh for a year of rewarding challenges.

Stay Safe, Vaccinate, Mask, Sanitise and do things outdoors.

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

editor's desk

So the final 2021 edition of the Western Cape Scouter is out there! Many thanks to all the contributors in 2021.

Make sure you read the comments from SiS Scouts after their hiking experience. Seeing comments like this really warms the heart and is one of the reasons that makes Scouting for adults so rewarding.

Should you have any suggestions about this publication, what is of interest that has been left out, articles too short or too long, too many or too few pictures, etc. please let me know at nigel.forshaw@scouts.org.za and

of course, your future articles are always welcome. Your Den, Pack, Troop, Crew, District and Regional activities are of interest to the Western Cape Scouter.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the holiday period while at the same time being careful out there.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter



appeal for donations

The Region is appealing for donations for the:

- Renewal of Appleton which includes repairs to plumbing, roofing and infrastructure. Please use bank reference <Your name> Appl.
- The Hawequas Fynbos Restoration Project which involves removing of alien vegetation which threatens the Fynbos. Please use bank reference <Your name> Fyn.

Donations can be made either by using SnapScan or EFT'd using banking details Standard Bank, Thibault Branch, Branch Code 020909, Account Number 070863660.



Snap here to pay



Left: Shows a stand of Black Wattle (the bright green alien plants) awaiting removal at Hawequas



Right: Shows the result of Black Wattle after hacking and herbicide applied. The bright green plants have gone

The above photos were taken 6 months apart and demonstrates how correct clearing can save Fynbos.



Left: Much work is being carried out at Appleton where sections of the roof are being replaced, trusses and battens inspected, plumbing issues attended to, vegetation cut back, grass cut and campsites revamped. This all costs money, not to mention manpower. We have three young wardens who are driving this with support from the Region.

adirondack shelter



What are the origins of the Adirondack Shelter and why do we have one at Hawequas? The Adirondacks is a range of mountains in the Appalachian chain of mountains close to the east coast of the USA. It was here that the local guides popularised the construction of lean-tos which subsequently became to be

known as Adirondack shelters. Meanwhile, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) owns a huge tract of the mountain called Philmont Scout Ranch which is in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, New Mexico. The BSA decided that they needed a basic shelter to build along their hiking trails at Philmont and so they took the lean-to construction idea from the Adirondacks and constructed shelters at Philmont Scout Ranch. There are now well over 1500 such shelters all over hiking trails in the USA and Canada.

Why at Hawequas you may ask? One of our previous Chief Scouts, Colin Inglis, was a great proponent of Philmont and an avid mountaineer and wanted to put up an Adirondack shelter somewhere in the mountains. Colin was involved in the purchase



of Hawequas in 1986 and on his passing we named the hill above the big donga, Mt Inglis. The pressure was now on to build a shelter there!

To cut a long story short I met an ex Scout, who had been in 10

GASP while I was hiking down the Fish River Canyon a few years ago and we struck up a conversation. He made a donation to fund the shelter in honour of his Scoutmaster, Michael Cohen. The shelter was duly constructed and is now available for use by Scouts for overnight shelter. Michael had a big influence on the donor's life and we have now affixed a plaque in memory of Michael in the shelter.

For some or other reason "Adirondack" is one of those words that is difficult to pronounce so try to say it like this – ADD-EAR-ON-DACK – much easier now!

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Manager

PS. The loo with a view is just above the shelter. Please place the rock back on the lid so that the wind does not blow it open.

springbok dinner

The Springbok Dinner took place recently at the 1st Bergvliet Scout hall. This function honours and congratulates those Scouts who were awarded the Springbok badge in 2020/2021. Many challenges were met by the class of 2020/2021 Springbok Scouts who had to dovetail their activities in between strict and less strict lockdowns and who in many cases had to reschedule and re-plan activities.

We were fortunate enough to host Gary Pienaar, the Chief Commissioner, along with our Regional Commissioner Paddy Milner. Paddy welcomed everybody to the dinner, and Gary told us a little about himself as a Scout in KZN and the involvement of his sons in Scouting and gave a motivational talk. Gary presented each Springbok Scout with the Springbok certificate.

Many thanks to 1st Bergvliet for allowing the use of their excellent facilities, Greg Stopford who organised the event and Gavin Stopford, Garrit Ievers and Daniel McIver who kindly assisted with braaing, plating, serving and washing up.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme



springbok dinner



new springbok scout



Congratulations to:
Luna Celliers of
1st Hermanus



patrol leader training course



Over the September long weekend, Hawequas was host to 42 scouts who signed up to complete the Patrol Leaders Training Course (PLTC). PLTC is a unique course that, over four days, allows every single participant to lead a patrol through several teamwork- and leadership-testing activities. The outcome of these opportunities is a scout that is more informed about their own strengths and weaknesses as a leader, and more equipped for leading their patrol members to succeed as a team and as individuals.

The scouts arrived on Thursday afternoon, and Hawequas was soon abuzz with the six patrols taking part in their first Leadership Base. These leadership bases look like "walking the giraffe", patrols finding ways to carry their Patrol Leaders across the dam, setting up their campsites. This year's patrols had impressive campsites, and obviously took great pride in making them their own.

One of the essential aspects of PLTC is the time set aside in the programme for the patrols to brainstorm around essential leadership theory. They are introduced to the concept of a patrol culture, and they discover what it means to generate a culture that helps a patrol achieve their goals. A lot of this brainstorming is done by the scouts themselves as opposed to in a lecture, and this format means that a lot of fresh ideas are heard every year.

The phrase "learning by doing" is often used in scouting, and PLTC expands on this by learning through doing AND reflection. Participants reflect on the success of every activity, and strategize for the next one with what they have learned. This allowed the scouts to make huge breakthroughs in terms of communication and planning. PLTC 2021 ushered over 40 well-equipped, eager leaders out of Hawequas at the end of the last day. We are so excited to watch them lead Western Cape Region as the drivers of the most important structure in scouting: the patrols themselves.

Rebecca Sparg - ATS 1st Claremont



patrol leader training course



1st rocklands purple month



Left: Zeah Moonsamy 10 years old giving a demonstration of an edible compost heap for garden day. Here is Zeah having fun with a purpose.



Above Right: Annsley Spies donated blood for the 25th time. She received a gift for dedication from the blood foundation and here she is celebrating purple month.



Above: 1st Rocklands group had a dress up to paint the garden purple. Everything that was on display was purple, sweet treats, purple cabbage, onions and eggplant.

Annsley Spies - DC Mitchell's Plain

capucine's first class camp

At Capucine's camp we have learned and talked about a lot of things. I enjoyed the ground to air signals. The self-defence talk we had was very helpful I feel very happy that we talked about it. How to use an axe: the safe way to carry it was also an activity that I enjoyed.

The Survival badge was the one that I focused and learned how I can survive without any equipment. Bullying has affected a lot of people, children and adults. There are many platforms an individual can be bullied. Social media (cyber bullying), physical bullying and verbal bullying.

Whilst still on Appleton, the weather changed started to rain we had to dismantle our campsite. We worked as a team and we were done before it started to drizzle. Elands good team work it's always good results at the end of the day.

Liwa Ngwexana – 9th/16th Cape Town

Ed. Capucine Wiroth is a PL and is well on her way to earning the First Class.

Liwa Ngwexana is in Capucine's Eland Patrol and is 16 years old and is working towards the Traveller badge.



utct table mountain aid station

The Ultra Trail Cape Town (UTCT) is an annual event which attracts runners from all over the world who compete in 100km, 65km, 35km and 21km races. The Western Cape Region once again ran the Table Mountain Aid Station based at the Scout Hut which is tasked with providing drinks, food and assistance to the runners.

This was the weekend of a huge storm and multiple weather warnings, but not to be deterred and adhering to the mantra "the show must go on", the advance party arrived on a Friday afternoon at the Scout Hut, all kitted out with food and tables. The storm didn't disappoint and we had a gale force north westerly wind blowing with lightning around and of course plenty of rain. So much for the Mediterranean climate of long dry summers.

The aid station was nevertheless set up and was in place for the first runners who came through just after 7:00am on Saturday and with the last runners going through sometime after lunch. The cloud never lifted so running conditions on the mountain were good but quite cold.

This was a wonderful advert for Scouts SA, not to mention providing for a bit fun for those who assisted in making sandwiches, cutting up fruit and filling water bottles with Powerade, Coke and special (brown) mountain water. Hopefully, the runners enjoyed a well earned brief rest in one of the best parts of Cape Town being the Scout Hut, Table Mountain.



Many thanks to Paddy Milner for organising the station and Aussie Raad who both drove staff up to the hut. Many thanks to all and also to those who walked up at the crack of dawn on Saturday to provide the overnights some respite and assistance.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme

utct table mountain aid station



climbing badge course



It is no secret that most Scouts were itching to get outdoors after all the lockdowns we've had over the last few years, and so there was no shortage of Scouts who signed up for the Climbing Scoutcraft badge course! We therefore ended up running four individual courses over two weekends at the beautiful Higgovale Quarry to accommodate everyone, and it could not have run more smoothly. Between the capable and helpful staff, great weather and enthusiastic Scouts, each Scout ended the day with a badge to represent their new skill set - and hopefully had some fun along the way.

The Scouts started each day by learning the ins-and-outs of the climbing guide book; in particular how to identify climbing routes, check how difficult and popular each one is, and then map them to the actual rock. Then they learned how to put on a harness, how to safely tie into the rope and how to correctly belay while their partner climbed up the rock. This was followed by a few hours of rock climbing, with every Scout climbing the five different routes we had set up and getting their teeth stuck into the granite (not literally of course!). They then ended the day by doing a 15m abseil off the edge of the quarry; by all accounts, both the scariest and most exhilarating part of the course. Thanks to all who made it happen and to the Scouts for making it a great few days out at the crag!



Nicholas Hyslop - TS 2nd Rondebosch



climbing badge course



outeniqua district ldc

The Outeniqua District comprising 1st Plettenberg Bay, 1st Knysna, 1st Sedgefield, 1st George and 1st Mossel Bay held a LDC 1 and LDC 2 badge course camp on the weekend of 16/17 October 2021 in Knysna. There were 41 Participants, 5 Scout PQ's 8 Adult Assistants, QM's, Tutors and Base Instructors.

A delightful Campfire and Scouts Own was held and was a first for most of the attendees. There was quite a bit of rain and wind but all survived. It was also 1st Sedgefield Troop's first camp. It was just the medicine for all our Scouts to enhance their level of interest even further. The Troops in the Southern Cape bonded well and loads of new friends were made.

Pat Farnham - DC Outeniqua District



outeniqua district ldc



paint the lion purple



After being unable to Paint the Lion Purple in 2020, it was absolutely fantastic to get out and up there this year and see every part of scouting on the mountain together again. Meerkats, Cubs, Scouts, Rovers, Scouters, Parents (and even some members of the Regional Team) participated in our Thursday evening hikes during October.

The weather (mostly) co-operated, and even if some of us may have lost a bit of fitness during Covid but we managed a good (masked) crowd every week for the 6pm photo. It was a great opportunity to connect and re-connect with fellow scouts from all around Cape Town and out once again into the practice the 'OUT' in Scouting. It was a great

reminder to us all that despite (or maybe even because of) Covid, there are many exciting and adventurous things that we can and should be doing as scouts in the great outdoors! Zoom and Skype and Discord (and maybe even indoor meetings) are and must always be what we do when we can't be outdoors!

Many thanks to all those who helped organise and oversee each Thursday's hike and a special shout-out to those who made 4/4 Thursday nights, including our Regional Commissioner, Paddy Milner.



Fr Charles Prince - Regional Finance Representative



paint the lion purple



1st kirstenhof pack opens

On 9 August 2021, a call went out on several local Community Facebook Groups in search of adult volunteers who were willing to take on the project of opening 1st Kirstenhof Scout Group.

Richard Steinhofel (who has recently stepped down as Akela of the Thursday Pack at 2nd Bergvliet) and I had just completed our Woodbadge Training where we had engaged in a discussion about the current demand on our respective Cub Packs. It had gotten to the point that both waiting lists had closed due to long list of children wanting to join a Pack. We identified the need to open another Pack to cater for children between Muizenberg and Bergvliet (as this is quite a large gap between suburbs).

Richard agreed to take on the role of Pack Mentor where he would mentor the Pack Scouters and write a full programme catering to the needs of a new Pack and I would take on the role as Group Mentor, where I would mentor the SGL and Group Committee in getting the Group off the ground. We are both in the process of writing a manual as a blueprint of how we managed our respective roles so that it can be repeated in the future to open more Groups in line with the current strategy of SCOUTS South Africa.

Before the call went out, I managed to track down Shoena Smith, a 1st Bergvliet mom and Scouter who had originally opened the Group in the nineties, and pick her brain about the history of 1st Kirstenhof. She informed me that she had also



identified a need for a Pack in the area in the early nineties and had run it from the Kirstenhof Primary School Hall with the help of her children who were both experienced in the Movement. Unfortunately, the Group closed due to lack of parent support. In further research, I discovered that there was also a Troop in the area that seemed to have closed in the late nineties, but the details are vague.

Interestingly enough, Richard found an old 1st Kirstenhof scarf hanging on the roof frame of their hall. It is now proudly worn by the 1st Kirstenhof totem pole.

We had such an astounding response that we managed to get our new adult team together 2 days after the call went out and had our first meeting just ten days later. The team of adults who put their hands up is the most incredibly dynamic and passionate team. They are the ones who decided to take on the challenge of opening the Pack in the 4th term.

To be quite honest, we didn't think it was possible in the amount of time that gave us, but we somehow managed to pull it off as a team. The new Group met every two weeks to discuss different areas and how best to tackle them and one evening we even got treated to a potjie dinner by the new SGL Neil during load shedding!

We were faced with a couple of challenges, a venue was difficult to find, the timing

1st kirstenhof pack opens

was off when it came to training, and opening the Group bank account took much longer than anticipated but the new team of adults at 1st Kirstenhof were not to be swayed. We received incredible support from our DC Conrad Thomas, who did everything he could to help us mitigate these challenges as well as from Nicky



Jonas, who opened Pow Wow to the new Scouters when they were unable to sign up for training. Thank also, to Peter Statham who met with our new SGL and gave him some excellent background to Scouting and answered many of his questions regarding the Movement.

The Group decided to adopt the previous 1st Kirstenhof scarf as an ode to the original Group but have created their own cap and logo – the Spotty Dog symbol was used as they wanted something that was identifiable to the community. It has

received wonderful feedback.

Finding children to join the Pack was the easy part. We emailed the various waiting lists we had and put a post up on social media. The Pack was full in a matter of hours.

After the new Scouters were invested at our DSC Meeting, 1st Meadowridge SGL Carig Evans let us know that a lot of the old 1st Kirstenhof equipment had been stored at their hall. It was quite special to receive flags and shields from 30 years before which will be treasured by the Group.

Even the Group Secretary, Mandy Jeppe and Group Fundraiser, Elsa Eksteen are involved in the Pack and attend meetings every week. You'll also find SGL Neil Kohler, actively engaging with the children.



1st kirstenhof pack opens



The new Cubs are loving the programme which is evident in the high attendance rate. 1st Muizenberg Seagulls PL Kiara Winter has also been closely involved with this Pack and even has her own jungle name!

I think both myself and Richard have been blown away by the passion and dedication of this new Group and can say, without a doubt, that this is a Group to watch. They intend to open a Troop within

the next year and will look at opening a Den once the Troop has been established.

It has been an honour and a privilege to work with such an incredible group of people and we wish 1st Kirstenhof a long and happy Scouting journey!

Angela Lee-Wright - SGL 1st Muizenberg

Ed. Niall Jack, a music teacher, was the last TS at 1st Kirstenhof. After the Troop closed my guess is that Niall took the 1st Kirstenhof memorabilia to 2nd Meadowridge where Niall was TS and which met in the Guide Hall next to 1st Meadowridge. After 2nd Meadowridge closed I suspect that the 1st Kirstenhof flag was then moved to 1st Meadowridge for safekeeping. Thanks for doing so!



sailing badge course

The 2021 Sailing Badge Course faced immediate challenges with Zandvlei being closed and not safe for use. On the first weekend the scouts completed their theory section at the Sea Scout Base which was run very smoothly by David Bosch. The second weekend involving the practical sessions was facilitated by Robert Schmid at Voelvlei. We encountered the obvious logistical nightmare of having to transport the boats to Voelvlei, however as Scouts, we were prepared and we made a plan!

We were sceptical about changing location and potentially having facilities not fit for use but our doubts were instantly erased as the facilities at Voelvlei were beyond our expectations and allowed for a very comfortable stay. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bev Shaw - a committee member at Voelvlei - for her willingness to accommodate us.

Despite the challenges we faced due to Zandvlei being closed, we conducted a successful course with all scouts walking away having passed! We were definitely thrifty and managed to make the most of the course while making awesome memories.

Tahira Abrahams - ATS 2nd Plumstead



scouting in schools news

Part of the Scouting in Schools programme is to involve Scouts in camping. In 2017 and 2018 the Western Cape government kindly funded camps at Gilray and Hawequas. In 2019 World Scout Foundation representatives visited a PLs camp

that was being run by Ahmad Solomon. They were favourably impressed and then sponsored a camp for SiS Scouts later in 2019. Mark presented Ahmad with the Messenger of Peace Scarf at this camp.

Camping was not possible in 2020 and somewhat difficult in 2021 so the camping activity was

changed to be a hike in our mountains. This provided an opportunity for many SiS Scouts to go hiking for the very first time which is something that they would not normally be able to do because of logistical and financial issues. The Lombardi

Trust kindly sponsored the 2021 hike programme. SiS is indeed very appreciative for the assistance by the Western Cape government, the World Scout Foundation and the Lombardi Trust for which they are thanked.

In October and November, a number of hiking routes were put together. The routes covered Dead Man's Walk, Nellies Pool, Steenberg Plateau, Lions Head, Echo and Spes Bona Valleys. Over 750 scouts on nine separate days enjoyed hiking one of these routes. On two days there were Scouts hiking on three different routes and the remaining days had Scouts on two routes.

The logistical challenge met by Ahmad was amazing. Ahmad is congratulated for the diligence he showed in making the arrangements from ensuring Scouts were at school at the right time and day, to ensuring suitable clothes, shoes, water bottles were had by the Scouts, to organising food, to getting taxis, to synchronizing pick up times and to getting hike leaders. What an accomplishment.



scouting in schools news

We are indebted to Take Back our Mountains who “focus on protecting our biodiversity in the Table Mountain National Parks including safe community hikes, and cleaning the environment”, along with Virgil van der Horst, Alistair Clacherty, Nigel Forshaw, Paddy and Annette Milner, Conrad Thomas, Stanley de Jager, Craig Dreyer, Lawrence Stanton, Derek Moss, Aslam Smith, Ayiesha Mohamed, Bhadronea Solomons, Dylan Cloete, Jeromy Dacey, Ian Webb, Milly Siebrits, Marista and Wilhelm van Zyl and Nagendra Nagaraj and family. Incidentally Aslam, Ayiesha and Bhadronea all assisted at summer camps in the United States in 2018.

Should another hiking opportunity come up in 2022, Ahmad will once again be looking for leaders from Scouts SA.



The hike programme coincided with the international Lights On After School Campaign, a campaign which focuses on the importance of afterschool programmes.



This year's theme was Helping Kids Recover given the difficulties learners had faced during the Covid period. There is no doubt that these hikes helped kids recover.

The Western Cape government has acknowledged the success of the SiS hikes by providing funding for a holiday programme for disadvantaged learners, who aren't Scouts, drawn from Cape Town. It is expected that Rovers will be

joining in to assist in these hikes during the holiday season.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter

sis hike reactions

When I went on the hike I had a really nice time. The mountains had a lot of nice views of the ocean. I was excited to spend time with my fellow Scouts and I also learned a lot about them. I also realised that it's okay to ask for help and to help others when needed. I did not dislike anything, it was fun and a great experience.

On Sunday I went with the Scouts on a hike. It was the best thing I have ever experienced. Things I have never seen before. Spending time with my buddies and eating delicious food that was sometimes healthy. And the waterfall! Wow! it was just wonderful! I really had a fantastic day. The best part of the hike was the ~~view~~ view, it was just BEAUTIFUL! I would definitely go again.

Thank you so much for the hike

I was really grateful to the Scouts team. I really had fun hiking with them and I enjoyed every minute with the Scouts group. We made every moment count when we were having fun with the Scouts team cause we learnt and have fun at the same time. It was a very memorable day when we went hiking and had a lot of fun and I will never forget that day. I don't regret joining the Scouts because I enjoyed it and I really like it.

Chloe Brevis

Scouts is wonderful, in Scouts we learn to interact with one another. In Scouts we learn new and interesting things and the activities make children's bonds stronger. The hike that we went on I will remember forever. The hike was fun and the food that they gave us tasted really good mostly the burger. We all exchanged our snacks but we still sanitized. We met children from different schools. The hike was tiring but yet fun. I also saw some of group 1 and they kind of changed but they still the same. All of us took a long walk around the mountain but we took breaks to drink our water and eat our snacks. Scouts is really really wonderful and I also want to be in Scouts next year. I love being in Scouts.

On the hike I saw a beautiful view on the mountain. I saw a lizard under a rock. And a flower that look like a book. Every time we got a 5 minute break. I saw rocks that look like animals. It did also rain and we saw a waterfall on our way back. And we saw people with their dogs. Some of us were tired. And we saw the beach from on top of the mountain. We were so excited. We all had fun at the hike. They gave us burgers, orange and donuts. And we had partners from a other school. It was my first time hiking. I would like to go again.

Leah Philander 7B

My time at the hike was fun and very tiring. We went up hill and down hill. My buddy was always tired and we had to stop every 5 minutes. What I liked about the hike was the views and the mountains. We did not see a lot of animals, but I really liked it. The part I liked the most is when it was raining and the clouds come over the mountains and it looked so beautiful. The rocks were very weirdly shaped, but looked interesting. When we went down hill the path was slippery. When it came to the end I was so tired and my feet were so sore.



sis hike reactions

The scouts hike was memorable. That is a day I will never forget. It was an amazing opportunity to make friends and socialise. There was lunch packs and the food was chef's kiss. It was a time to connect with nature and food. It was an amazing experience. I will definitely go again. This pushed me out of my comfort zone but if I said no and didn't go I wouldn't have known how much fun it would be to try new things.

~ The Hike ~

The hike was very enjoyable and fun. I loved that we went to hike on the mountain. I was intending to see animals but sadly I didn't. The hike was fun because I enjoyed spending that bonding time with my friends, mostly with my partner even though it rained on all it was still fun even though we also rained wet, I think the rain made it more funner.

The lunch packs they also provided for us was nice. I really enjoyed myself. The only thing I did not enjoy is that I got extremely tired of walking and the hike was not over. My legs was also shaking at a point while walking halfway. The hike was really nice even tho our driver got lost on the way home.

Thank You
XOXO
Sasha-Lee
Henry
78

lance vergine.

My Experience of this hike.

I have liked the hike very much because we had to do things like this every time so I had enjoyed it. And we had also explored many things as we walked around on the mountains.

And we have also saw many different things like box shapes and caves, trees in between some boxes, rocks and different types of plants on the way up the mountains. And we had also saw a water falls.

A I would like to do some thing like that again. It was very lovely on a I was exciting for me. Because I went to with my school.

Ingram Zenani

I am so grateful for scouts and for the hike. It was so fun and nice. I enjoyed the hike with other scouts. We had fun and helped each other when we were down. I learnt a lot from scouts that we help each other and never leave each other behind. I love scouts and I will never forget so scout wherever I go. It was so tiring and hard to walk to the mountain but the other helped me and I'm grateful for every minute of it.

From:
Ingram Zenani

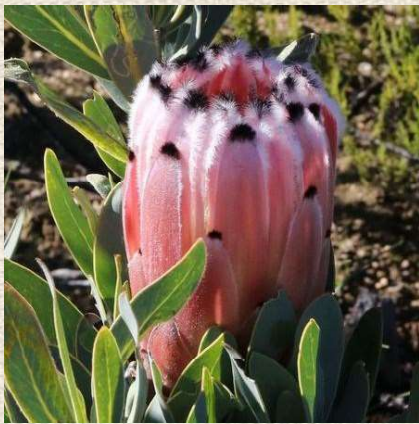


the garden of hawequas

One of the reasons why the Hawequas Fynbos Restoration Project was started was to do our best to ensure the flora of Hawequas is preserved and not overrun by alien plants. Perhaps take a walk around Hawequas and have a look out for some of our stunning Boland Granite Fynbos (vegetation type). There is always something flowering at Hawequas so take a walk on the North Circular, Central or South Circular Route where you will always find something flowering. The best time of the year is June to October. The natural history of Hawequas is being recorded at www.inaturalist.org and 503 species of plants, mammals, insects, fungi, reptiles, etc. have been recorded.

All the below photographs were taken at Hawequas.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme



Grey Protea



Common Protea



Needleleaf Pincushion



Heath- Erica trichadenia



Elandsberg Paintpetal



Eightday Healthbush



Burchells Protea



Capestar



Fine Spiderhead

the garden of hawequas



Pale Capeblue



Common Ribbon Pincushion



Wagon Tree - Protea



Gaping Storksbill



Prickly Purplegorse



Myrrhleaf Storksbill



Spinning-top Conebush



Browntongue Hangertjie



Spearleaf Conebush



Hairy Afrikaner



Golden Heath



Finger Indigo

western cape rovers



Rovers in the Western Cape is on the rise at a rapid rate! If you haven't heard, there is a new WCRAC in office with a grand vision for 2022 and the hard work is already yielding great momentum!

The Rover programme is an extension of the scouting programme geared towards young adults between 18 and 30. Its focus is on furthering the interpersonal and intrapersonal development of these young adults to assist them in navigating the world through its motto, "Service." More specifically, service to one's self, service to the movement and service to the community. The Western Cape Rover Advisory Council, WCRAC or WRAC for short, is a forum of representatives from different Rover Crews across the Region who serve to facilitate the Regional Rover programme year on year. We have an action-packed year ahead, complimented by the unique and engaging programmes

that each individual Crew provides. In 2022, we will be reintroducing the Rover Warrant course in the WC as well hosting multiple fun day events.



western cape rovers



Independent from the WCRAC activities, we saw many different Crews represented at the Rover Skills Camp, run by a Rover for advancement, at Hawequas earlier this month. 20 Rovers with vast scouting backgrounds participated in a standing patrol competition which saw many new-to-the-movement Rovers learn from previous Springbok Scouts an array of different scouting skills. The camp also served as a



great networking opportunity for these Rovers to begin forming new friendships and share experiences and ideas. We are looking forward to seeing what collaborative efforts come of this!

If you are nearly 18 or a young ATS looking to continue on the scouting journey, find yourself a crew today! 2022 is quickly beginning to look like the best year yet for Rovers in the Western Cape and you don't want to miss out on the action. For more information, feel free to contact me at 0813426835 or johann.harzon@scouts.org.za.

A Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!

Jóhann Harzon - Chairperson WCRAC

appleton rejuvenation



Appleton is under new wardenship! Since November, three new wardens have been working hard to restore Appleton to its former glory. The team has already made considerable progress and has completed or are in the process of completing a significant number of tasks including clearing vegetation, repairing the buildings and sorting out the storage room.

Many man hours have been spent on work at Appleton by the warden team and work parties that have been organised. Thank you to all those that have contributed to helping out. Special mention must go to Bellville South Scout Group for committing so many service hours to cleaning up Appleton. We thank you for your service to Appleton and the Western Cape Region!

The upcoming tasks that the team plan on tackling include painting the buildings and expanding the campsite space. There is still much work to be done and if you would like to get involved the please contact Jóhann Harzon at 081 342 6835.

Dylan Ribbans - Co-warden Appleton



1st durbanville anti-plastic

1st Durbanville is committed to the Tide Turners Plastic Challenge, a global initiative which has been adopted by the World Scout Organisation Movement as an integral component of its Earth Tribe Initiative. Scouts got creative when the Patrols were issued with paint and paper and challenged to create anti-plastic marine posters. These posters were displayed at the local library as part of a static display which

some Scouts used for 1st Class advancement. The community expressed great interest in this initiative.

Usurla Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



hawequas news

Hawequas has had a very busy 4th quarter with many visitors passing through, some very briefly.

We had two big cycle races coming through, the Imbuko Big Five, twice in one day. This race is a real test being 75km and 3500m of climbing. Over 300 riders crossed Hawequas. The next big race was the Cape Epic, which spent 2 nights in Wellington and came through here on two days – unfortunately no spectators were allowed this year.



Scouting managed to get run a number of badge courses and PLTC was one of them. The challenges of running courses with only one participant per tent has been embraced with Scouts just wanting to be taking part in activities again. The Conservation Badge Course was here during an easterly gale and on the first night many tents were literally trashed. Some adult leader training Courses were also held very successfully.

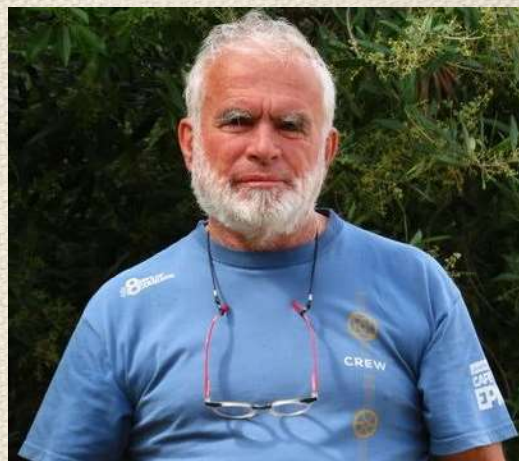
We had a youth mountain bike course run here by a Wellington training academy being M Race for a period of 4 days. Hawequas supplied the food and did the cooking. We also did the same for a leadership camp run by the Afrikaanse Christelike Vroue Vereniging.

A big event was the MCSA Mini Camp, which was based at Hawequas, with mountaineers coming from all over the country and many having been Scouts. From Hawequas many hikes took place in the Limietberg mountains, from multi day hikes to day trips and to rock climbing trips. The event ended off with a sit down dinner with 80 people who enjoyed a Spit Roast dinner in the Barn. Hawequas received a lot of accolades.

The Fynbos Restoration project is going well, although we are always looking for more funding. I often hear from people that there are still so many alien plants around but what they don't see is how many have been taken out and how many hectares have been cleared and are being kept clear. You will notice that a contractor is clearing pines across the Spruit River on our land. This will be a great area for a bit of wild land camping in the future.

Kuba Miszewski - Hawequas Manager

Ed. Kuba has been at Hawequas for 8 years.



hout bay sailing weekend

On the 16th and 17th of October, 5 boats made their way down to Hout Bay Harbour to sail for the first time since the vleis closure in May.

On the first day, rain threatened to put a dampener on the activities, but the scouts were too excited to let that stop them. After rigging the boats, onlookers were treated to the sight of scouts, in full sailing gear, wheeling fully rigged Saldanhas across the harbour's parking lot.

Once on the water a bit of friendly competition led to a sausage course race, starting at Rotary Scout which was anchored in the bay.

The following day saw sunny skies and the scouts were more excited than ever to get back on the water. They spent the morning practicing sailing and then in the afternoon they joined HBYC's sail past. Watching the scouts sailing amongst the big keel boats and alongside Rotary Scout was the highlight of the weekend.

A big thank you must go to HBYC and Craig Dunlop for being so accommodating to us over the weekend. Also a thank you to all those that came down and sailed.

Steven Medcalf - TS 2nd Plumstead



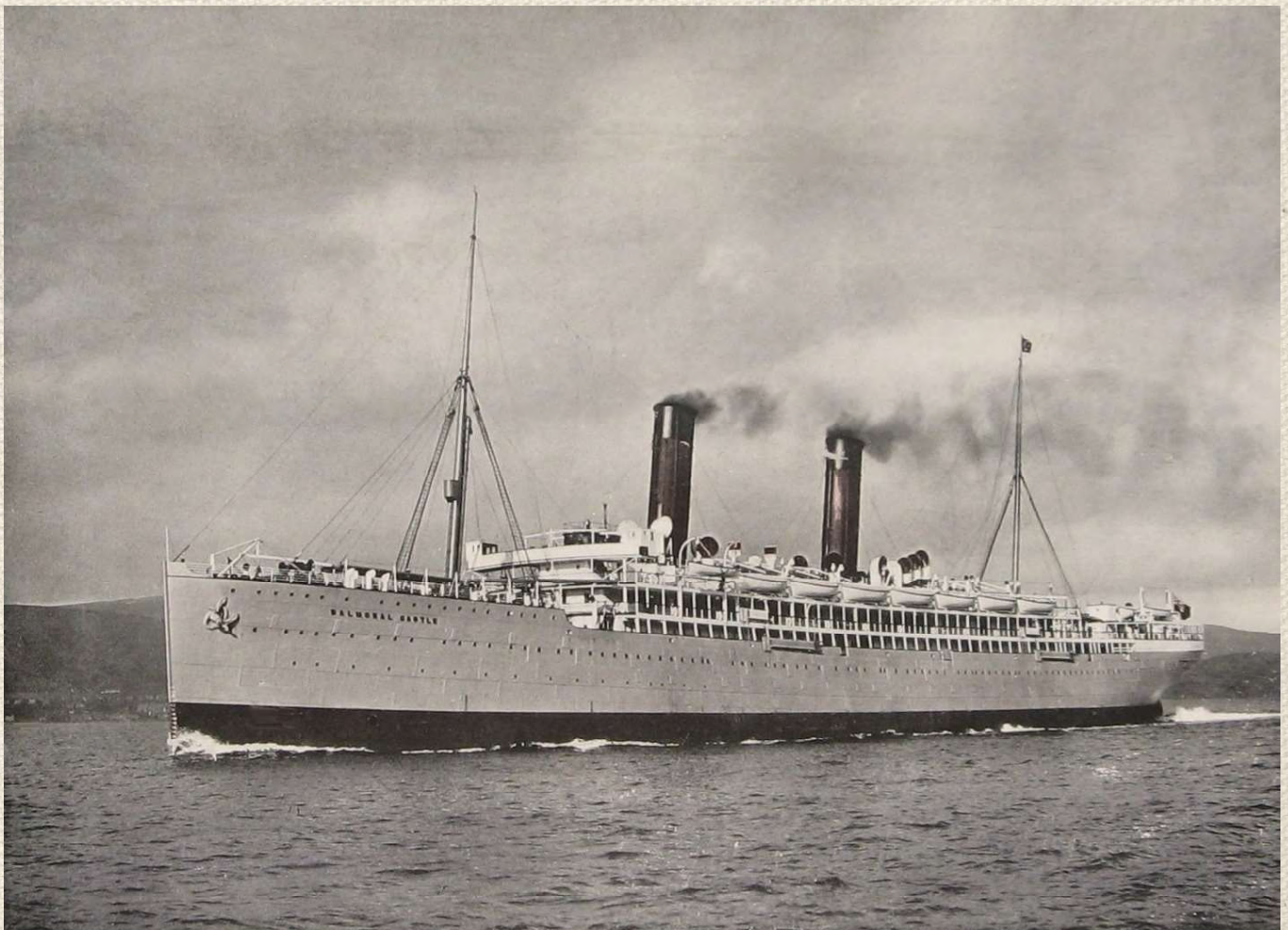
century of world jamborees

The first World Scout Jamboree was held in 1920 in London, from the 30th July to 8th August. The event was held at Olympia, which was and still is an exhibition centre in West Kensington, in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

The Olympia arena covering an area of 24,000 square metres was filled with a 30 cm deep layer of earth, which was then covered with grass, enabling the Scouts to pitch tents within the glass-roofed hall. There were 8,000 Scouts, representing 34 countries of which 186 were from South Africa.

So how, 100 years ago, did the South African Scouts travel to London and how long were they away from school? Yes, there were aeroplanes, and the first flight from London to Cape Town had taken place in March when Pierre van Ryneveld and Quintin Brand completed the journey, but that took 45 days.

Our senior members will remember the Union Castle 'Mail Boats' that sailed once a week from Cape Town to Southampton, England and the last one being the Windsor Castle in 1977. Travelling by sea was the only practical option and in 1920 the journey took about 17 days. Apart from the onboard fun activities to reduce the boredom, time was set aside to continue with school work.



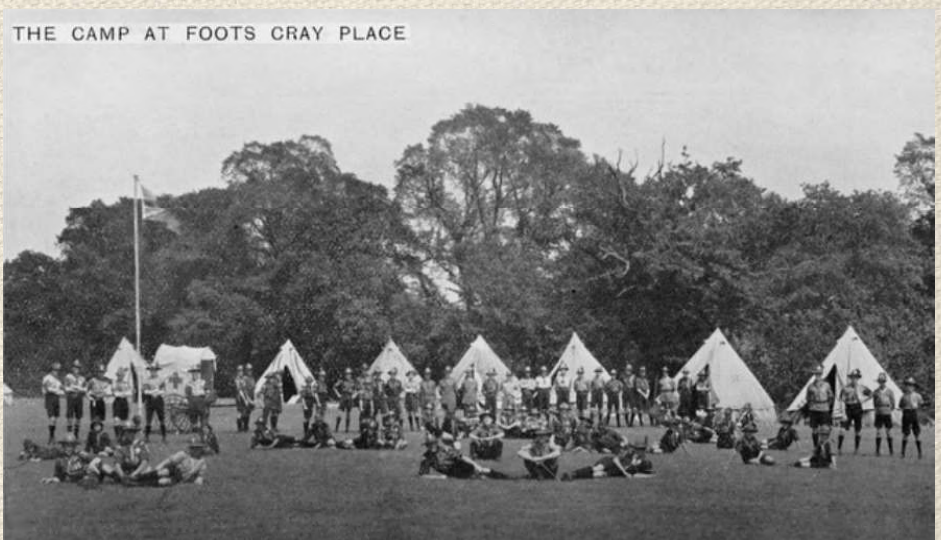
The time away from home was quite considerable. The sea journey alone, out and back, weather permitting, was just over 5 weeks. Arriving in good time they did some exploring in London before attending the ten day Jamboree.

century of world jamborees

They then camped at Sidcup, an estate about 25 Km south east of London. Here they were given leave to tour and visit friends and family. A farewell party was held on 2nd September and then on to Southampton for the return sea voyage. Surely some of the boys could have been suffering from homesickness as they were away for approximately 70 days or two and a half months.

Have you started making plans for the 25th World Scout Jamboree in 2023 in Korea?

Stuart Ravenscroft - The Archivist, Scout Museum and Heritage Centre



survival (backwoods) course



On the 15 October 34 brave souls (all of them senior scouts) took part in what was to be a challenging, exciting and very rainy survival adventure weekend. This was the first opportunity since 2019 for senior scouts to take part in and complete the Survival Interest badge course - previously known as Backwoodsman.

This year the Survival badge course was designed around the theme of survivor (particularly apt given the badge name). Immunity idols, challenge awards, survivor auctions (where the best prize was a hot shower for one lucky scout) and many more interesting additions brought an extra layer of fun to the course and were all part of this new approach.

Over the course of 3 days these 34 scouts demonstrated their ability to survive in the wild sans all the usual comforts one expects when going camping. Matches, blitz, utensils, crockery, tents were all prohibited on the course and instead participants had to demonstrate their ability to create shelter, find water, make fire and cook food using only the survival skills they had been taught on the previous training weekend and a limited survival kit they brought with them.



survival (backwoods) course

For those who don't know the objective of this course is to ensure that each participant who completes the course is equipped to survive in the wild should they ever become stranded. Given the kinds of activities scouts get up to and the reputation we carry with the rest of the world (thanks Bear Grylls), some would say this course is one of the most essential to attend in one's scouting career.



This adventure weekend tested each scout's ability to fulfil the 4 basic needs of survival (warmth, water, shelter, food) in a variety of ways while at the same time putting patrols through gruelling challenges to determine who would become the ultimate "scoutvivor".

In the end I am pleased to say the Survival course ran smoothly and a very impressive win by the 2021 scoutvivor - Sofie Watermeyer of 6th Rondebosch who scored 80% for the entire course (practical, theory and food) .

We can't wait for next year where there'll be another opportunity for one scout to claim the prestigious title of ultimate scoutvivor!

Michael Cheney - Survival Course Leader



from the archives



This is the July 1985 Wood Badge course participants and staff. Here they are outside the Training Centre at Gilcape, Eerste River. It wasn't too long after, that Gilcape was sold and Hawequas was bought in 1986. You may have come across some of these folk who are still active in Scouting today. See if you can spot them.

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